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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/682,923 | 11/01/2001 | Adeyinka Adedeji | 08CN06028-2 | 3495 |

23413 7590 01/13/2003

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| EXAMINER |
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MULLIS, JEFFREY C

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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1711

DATE MAILED: 01/13/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 09/682,923 | ADEDEJI ET AL | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Jeffrey C. Mullis | 1711 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 August 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2-6 | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

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Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The specification as filed does not disclose or describe how to make the "reaction product " of claim 31 and claim 31 is therefore not enabled.

Claims 1-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention.

The term "substantially free" is unclear since the term "substantially" is relative and therefore subjective. This term appears in at least claim 3.

The term "naphthyl group including" as appears in at least claim 11 is unclear since it is not stated what "including" refers to.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject

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Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maruyama et al. (USP 5,081,187).

Patentees broadly disclose applicants' components and concentration ranges at column 8 lines 16-55 for all components except for a polyvinyl aromatic component. However note that column 4 lines 60-64 discloses that up to half of the polyphenylene ether may be replaced by polystyrene. It is disclosed that the aromatic block in the block copolymers may be present at a level of 25-65% at column 5 lines 52-57. Note Example 1 in Table 1 which discloses a composition identical to that of the claims except that it is unclear what the aromatic block concentration is and no polyvinyl aromatic component is disclosed.

While applicants broadly disclose applicants' composition, there are no specific examples containing all of applicants' components in applicants' amounts. However it would have been obvious to a practitioner having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use applicants' materials in applicants' amounts since patentees broadly recite such and in the expectation of adequate results absent any showing of surprising

judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy a policy

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reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent. *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); and *In re Goodman*, 29 USPQ 2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(b) and (c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a non-statutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.78(d).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1-36 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-21 and 23-43 of copending application Serial No. 09/682,926. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because choice of percentages of the instant application from those of the co-pending application would have been obvious to a practitioner having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention in that the percentages overlap and furthermore in that it requires only routine experimentation to find the optimum or workable range of a result effective variable absent any showing of surprising or unexpected results.

This is a *provisional* obviousness-type double patenting

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Claims 1-36 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-46 and 23-43 of copending application Serial No. 09/682,921. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because choice of percentages of the instant application from those of the co-pending application would have been obvious to a practitioner having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention in that the percentages overlap and furthermore in that it requires only routine experimentation to find the optimum or workable range of a result effective variable absent any showing of surprising or unexpected results.

This is a *provisional* obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Jeffrey Mullis at telephone number (703) 308-2820.

J. Mullis:cdc

January 12, 2003

